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Message Text

SECRET

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44
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 039425
R 081400Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY SANAA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4436
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANAA 2111

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, EAID, SA, JO, YE
SKBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH SAUDI AMBASSADOR: SAN MILITARY
AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

REF: SANAA 2031; JIDDA 5735

1. SAG AMBASSADOR MUSA'ID SUDAIRI INFORMED ME OCT 7 THAT SAG AND YARG HAVE AGREED ON ARRIVAL SIZEABLE SAUDI MILITARY ADVISORY TEAM, TO BE HEADED BY BRIGADIER, AFTER MID-OCTOBER ID AL-FITR HOLIDAYS. SAUDI TEAM WILL HANDLE ALL TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE ON WESTERN EQUIPMENT (PRESUMABLY WITH EXCEPTION JORDANIAN ADVISERS FOR SALADIN APPROVED CARS). SAUDIS WILL ALSO BRING IN EGYPTIAN ADVISERS TO HANDLE SIMILAR FUNCTION FOR RUSSIAN-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT NOW IN COUNTRY OR BEING PROVIDED BY EGYPT. SUDAIRI ALSO TOLD ME HE HAS FIRM PROMISE, WHICH HE IS SURE WILL BE KEPT, FOR REMOVAL OF PRESENT SOVIET ADVISERS.

2. COLONEL SALIM ABU ZAYD, SENIOR JORDANIAN MILITARY ADVISER, TOLD ME EVENING OCTOBER 6 THAT GOJ HAD INFORMED YARG IT COULD NOT FUND ANY OF COSTS OF PROPOSED 87-MAN JORDANIAN TEAM. IN ABSENCE OF OTHER FUNDING (I UNDERSTAND SAG DID OFFER TO FIND LOCAL SUPPORT COSTS BUT NOT SALARIES OF TEAM), THERE NOW APPEARS LITTLE CHANCE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL. BOTH JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR MUSTAFA AND COLONEL
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SALIM ARE OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED, FEELING THAT

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JORDANIANS HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMED BY SAUDI FINANCIAL "MUSCLE".

3. ACCORDING COLONEL SALIM WHOSE SOURCE IS COMMAND COUNCIL CHAIRMAN HAMDI, YARG IN ADDITION DOLS 200 MILLION IN MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED FOR IT BY SAG, ALSO EXPECTS TO RECEIVE DIRECTLY FROM SAUDI STOCKS 24 F-5A'S AND 100 PANHARD ARMORED CARS. YARG PLANS OVER THREE YEAR PERIOD TO BUILD FORCE OF TWELVE BRIGADES (YAR BRIGADE USUALLY CONTAINS LESS THAN 1500 MEN), SIX WESTERN-EQUIPPED AND SIX EQUIPPED FROM OLDER SOVIET EQUIPMENT. DURING SUBSEQUENT FIVE YEAR PHASE ALL TWELVE BRIGADES WILL BE CONVERTED TO WESTERN EQUIPMENT.

4. SAG AMBASSADOR ALSO TOLD ME THAT SAG BUDGET SUBSIDY TO YARG HAS NOW BEEN INCREASED TO THIRTY MILLION SAUDI RIYALS (DOLS 8.45 MILLION) MONTHLY. IN COMPARISON, ESTIMATED YARG DOMESTIC REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1974 TOTALLED ONLY DOLS 62.5 MILLION. HOWEVER, MUCH YEMENIS MAY VALUE THEIR INDEPENDENCE, IT OBVIOUS THAT COUNTRY FINANCIALLY, ECONOMICALLY (THROUGH EMIGRANT REMITTANCES), AND MILITARILY IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY TIED TO SAUDI ARABIA.

5. FOREGOING COORDINATED WITH DATT LTC PLUMMER.
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